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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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S-E-C-R-E-T

COUNTRY East Germany

SUBJECT Reduction of 1955 Import Plan of the Ministry of Machine Construction

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REFERENCES

This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. The 1955 import plan of the East German Ministry for Machine Construction provides for only 25% of the funds made available for the import of raw materials and equipment during 1954. The reduction of funds in 1955 for the import of materials particularly threatens the planned production of the enterprises affiliated with the Main Administration for Radio and Telecommunications Technology (HV RFT), which, to a considerable extent, depends upon the import of materials and equipment not available in East Germany. 25X1

2. In the first week of February 1955, the head of HV RFT approached the State Planning Commission and the Ministry for Foreign and Domestic Trade in an attempt to obtain permission to spend more foreign currency for importing materials than was provided for in the plan. This permission was not granted, and HV RFT was given the following reason for the rejection by Arthur Tiefensee, head of the Main Administration for Planning and Cooperation of the Ministry for Machine Construction, who answered the request on behalf of the State Planning Commission: the reduction of planned funds for the import in 1955 of materials and equipment needed for production was caused by the political situation. The East German Government expects that the Paris Agreements will be signed, and therefore special measures must be taken for the defense of East Germany. Large amounts of currency must be accumulated and not touched for other purposes, as they will be needed for the import of crucial materials and equipment which are needed for the organization of the defense of East Germany.

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